THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) The consumption of tea in 1985 was estimated at around 415 M. Kgs. with the estimated increase being 15 M. Kgs. per annum. Thus at the current rate of annual incremental consumption the requirement for domestic consumption by 2000 A.D would be of the order of 640 M. Kg. which is comparable to the current production of 657 M. Kgs. However, it is necessary to increase the production in order to both maintain and increase our level of exports and to take care of increases in incremental consumption which may go up on account of various factors.

Measures envisaged for increasing tea production include short term measures like optimization of inputs, medium term measures like irrigation and drainage, infilling & rejuvenation of the bushes and long term measures like extension planting and replanting.

961. [*Transferred to the 12th March 1986*].

Violation of Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

962. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the violations of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; if so, what steps Government propose to take to make the violation of provisions of the Act cognizable by courts on receipt of complaints from institutions notified by the Central and State Governments; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take not only to give more teeth to the existing Act but also to the creation of a separate machinery for speeding up and inreasing detection of offences under this Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Violations of the Equal Remuneration Act are, at present dealt with through the Central and State Government machinery. Government is also considering amending the Equal Remuneration Act to extend the scope of the courts for taking cognizance of complaints relating to such violations.

(b) Creation of a separate machinery for the enforcement of labour laws relating to women as well as certain amendments to the Equal Remuneration Act are under the consideration of the Government.

Disbursement of loan by banks in Madhya Pradesh

963. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the banks which have been entrusted with the disbursement of loan to the poorer section of the society in the counry, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) what is the amount disbursed through these banks during the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) what are the methods adopted for the disbursement of these loans and how the same would be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Reserve Bank of India in February 1983 issued guidelines to all Scheduled Commercial Banks directing them to increase the flow of credit to weaker sections so that by March 1985 these sections account for 10 per cent of the aggregate credit of the banks. As at the end of December 1985, the credit to weaker sections was 10.2 per cent of the aggregate bank advances.